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sultant and one of its compounds. These figures the author denominates *imperfect resultants*.

In each series of transitions there are certain points which are invariable during all the changes : these are quiescent points, formed by the nodal lines of one figure intersecting those of the other, and the centres of vibration, where the maxima of positive or negative vibration agree in each component mode of vibration. The points of compensation are changeable. Transitional figures appear when the sides of the plate are nearly, but not exactly, equal.

The author next considers the figures obtained on square plates of wood and other substances, having different degrees of elasticity in different directions. He concludes this part of his paper by an account of some optical means of representing the figures noticed by Chladni.

March 21, 1833.

WILLIAM GEORGE MATON, M.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A paper was read, entitled, "An Account of two cases of inflammatory Tumour produced by a deposit of the Larva of a large Fly (*Oestrus humanus*) beneath the Cutis in the Human Subject; accompanied with Drawings of the Larva." By John Howship, Esq. Communicated by Charles Hatchett, Esq. F.R.S.

The first of these two cases is that of a soldier stationed on the banks of the Marawina river in Surinam, who had a large boil on the back, from which a maggot was pressed out. The second case, which occurred at Santa Anna, in the district of Maraquita, in Columbia, is that of a carpenter, who had for some months a large boil on the scrotum, from which a living larva was extracted. A description of this larva, drawn up by Mr. Curtis, is given by the author, together with a drawing of the specimen. The author proposes giving to it the name of the *Oestrus humanus*.

The reading of a paper, entitled, "Experimental Researches in Electro-magnetism," by the Rev. William Ritchie, LL.D. F.R.S. was commenced.

March 28, 1833.

The Rev. JAMES CUMMING, M.A., Vice-President, in the Chair.

The reading of Dr. Ritchie's paper was resumed and concluded.

This communication consists of three parts. In the first part the author shows that the common deflecting galvanometer, in which the deflecting forces are assumed to be as the tangents of deflection, is founded on false principles, and consequently leads to erroneous results. The wire forming the coil is of considerable thickness, and therefore there is no fixed zero from which the deflections can be reckoned. The length of the coil, also, being generally short, occa-